

App. No. 10/036,919
Atty. Docket No. 10122A
Amdt. dated August 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/54968 in view of Balaji et al. (U.S. Patent 5,981,047) or Wilkie (U.S. Patent 5,792,549).

The PCT application corresponds to the parent priority application for the present Application. The PCT application is relied upon to provide all of the features of rejected claims 1-19 except for the shrinkage values measured at 135°C.

Applicants disagree with the rejection of claims 1-19. However, it is unnecessary to discuss the details of the rejection in this Response because the rejection of claims 1-19 is mooted by the newly submitted claims. New claims 20-37 do not recite the shrinkage properties at 135°C, as recited in rejected claims 1-19. Accordingly, there is no basis for asserting that the new claims are entitled only to a priority date corresponding to the filing date of this CIP application, as was critical to the rejection of claims 1-19. Therefore, the PCT application is not prior art against new claims 20-37.

The secondary references cited in the Office Action were applied only to demonstrate "that it is well known in the art to set or anneal polypropylene films to increase dimensional stability and minimize shrinkage." The secondary references provide no teaching or suggestion of the claimed film structures.

Claims 20-37 recite modulus, elongation to break, and ultimate tensile properties of the films. Support for these properties is found in Tables 1-4 of the description as originally disclosed in the priority application.

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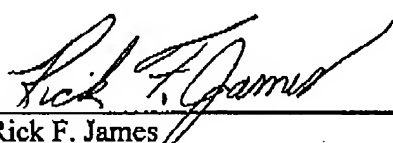
OFFICIAL**Conclusion**

Consistent with the foregoing, Applicants' claims 20-37 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Consideration of these claims with an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that this submission is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. However, should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below so that all matters may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 11, 2003



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